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FLOOR DEBATE

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form. Ten years after the repeal of Section 11, in the 2000-2001 school year, schools felt it was time again to look at the option enrollment transfer issue. In January of 2002, after a series of meetings, a proposal to eliminate the enrollment option waiver was passed by member schools with a vote of 226 to 33 margin by the member high schools. Number two on the committee amendments also clarifies the issue of a student initially enrolling in the ninth grade under the enrollment option program. The amendment states a ninth grade student shall be eligible beginning July 1, or upon acceptance of the application, to compete in extracurricular activities sponsored by the option school district. As you know from the committee amendments, LB 685, which addresses the Student Fee Authorization Act, has been added to the committee amendments. And Senator Raikes will address those in his opening. We had around 14 to 15 thousand students that have optioned in or out of school districts in the school year of 2002-2003. Again, LB 249, it removes the waiver. It merely sets in statute a date clarifying the eligibility deadline for option students to compete in extracurricular activities. I have...you have in front of you two handouts. The white sheet actually summarizes a little bit of what the bill does, trying to clarify the date line that has been established in the bill. Also, I thought it was interesting to note that the Nebraska School Activities Association...we often think of them just in regulating, shall I say, athletic events. But you can note from the handout that there are a large number of other extracurricular activities that are included, such as journalism and music activities. So I urge your support of LB 249, and would certainly be happy to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. You've heard the opening on LB 249. There are committee amendments as stated by the Clerk. Chairman of the committee, Education Committee, Senator Raikes, you're recognized to open on those committee amendments. (AM0931, Legislative Journal page 1014.)

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Stuhr has already, I think, covered very well the part of the committee amendment dealing with the option student deadline. I'll just recap that quickly. And that is